

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

SECSTATE WASHDC 2310

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, MY, NZ

SUBJECT: NEW MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO NEW ZEALAND

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4518

1. THE BULK OF MALAYSIAN COMMISSION ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG SEEMS TO BE CENTERED IN ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL AND CONSULAR-IMMIGRATION FIELDS. POLITICAL AND INFORMATION FUNCTIONS HAVE BEEN OF LESSER EMPHASIS, ALTHOUGH DURING PAST YEAR OR SO INCREASED ATTENTION HAS BEEN PAID TO CHINA WATCHING ASPECTS WITH ADDITION OF TWO MANDARIN SPEAKING OFFICERS, ONE OF WHOM HAS JUST BEEN TRANSFERRED TO PEKING. IN CONNECTION WITH GOM-PRC RAPPROCHEMENT. COMMISSION APPARENTLY HAS HAD ROLE IN KEEPING ABREAST OF PRC DEVELOPMENTS AND PROVIDING LOGISTICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BACKUP SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MALAYSIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING. ACCORDING TO GOM PEKING EMBASSY STAFF WHICH TRANSITED HERE EN-ROUTE TO PRC, THESE TASKS WERE CARRIED OUT VERY EFFECTIVELY.

2. COMMISSIONER THARMARATNAM IS REGARDED LOCALLY AS AFFABLE, SOCIALLY ACTIVE AND INTELLIGENT DIPLOMAT. HE APPEARS WELL INFORMED ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF HIS STAFF. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES AT WHICH U.S. CONGENOFF WAS PRESENT,
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THARMARATNAM DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT RECENT

EVENTS IN PRC, KOREA AND JAPAN. JUDGING FROM FREQUENT FAVORABLE REFERENCES HE MADE TO VARIOUS U.S. DIPLOMATIC FRIENDS WITH WHOM HE SERVED, HE SEEMS WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS U.S. IN SAME CONVERSATION THARMARATNAM SAID SPECIFICALLY THAT FOR HIM WELLINGTON POSITNG DID NOT REPRESENT PROMOTION OVER HONG KONG, AS LEVEL OF TWO POSTS WERE SAME. HOWEVER HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO NEW ZEALAND ASSIGNMENT. IN SHORT THARMARATNAM APPEARSTO HAVEDONE CREDITABLE PROFESSIONAL JOB OF DIRECTING MALAYSIAN ACTIVITIES HERE.
CROSS

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